LONGSIGHT NEWS

c/o 642 STOCKPORT RD.
Nov.-Dec. 1980 No. 21 10p

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POLICE ~ slow to protect quick to suspect

BELOW WE REPORT TWO CASES OF POLICE ACTIVITY IN LONGSIGHT. One where a massive 'fishing' expedition was mounted to catch black kids who were accused of stealing handbags. We question the use of time and money by the police. The police might have used their time more usefully by appearing rapidly at the scene of attacks such as the one described below, and by offering greater support to the victims.

THE POLICE RECENTLY MOUNTED A MASSIVE OPERATION IN THE LONGSIGHT AREA.

Many vans and uniformed and plain-clothes officers including an inspector swarmed over the area on Thursday 21st August. This operation coincided with the taking for questioning of 5 black youths. All were later released without being charged. It has been suggested that the police may have been expecting a riot similar to that in the St Pauls area of Bristol. Large numbers of clean-looking 'builders' were seen hanging round throughout the day and several times over the following week.

ASIAN TAXI DRIVER ATTACKED ON PINK BANK LANE

In August a United Taxi was called to 30 Pink Bank Lane, near the Garret Hotel about midnight. The firm has mainly Asian drivers. The taxi arrived and the driver knocked on the door, but the house was empty. Then 5 or 6 youths started to throw bricks and stones at him. He retreated into his car and the windscreen was smashed. The gang dragged him from the car, tore his clothes and hit him with an iron bar.

Other taxis in the area heard his call for help over the radio, but the gang had run off by the time they arrived.

THE POLICE AND AMBULANCE ARRIVED 25 MINUTES LATER.

The driver was streaming with blood from a head wound. But instead of getting him to hospital he was made to wait and give a statement. The police said nothing could be done about the gang. They didn't bother taking finger-prints from the iron bar. Nothing has been heard from the police since. The drivers have often tried calling the police in other emergencies and got no response until too late. Their rank on Dickenson Road has also been at attacked frequently late on Friday and Saturday nights.

There seems little doubt that the Pink Bank Lane incident was a racist attack. It was planned and carried out by a gang of white men on a driver from a firm known to be Asian.

Forced to leave

This area of Longsight/Gorton has recently been the scene of a white gang harrassing Asian council tenants. The Geoffrey family were forced to apply for an emergency housing transfer after a white gang from the Aylesby Ave area terrorised their children, broke their windows 8 times, and attempted to set light to tar poured in through a front window.

Though there is likely to be a hard-core of racists behind these attacks, they often draw in younger children by threats or intimidation.

If you are alarmed by any incidents of racist harrassment going on in your area, you can obtain help and advice from:

Manchester Law Centre 595 Stockport Road Longsight 225 5111

Longsight News c/o 642 Stockport Road Longsight

Albert Grove closed

About four months ago, residents of Albert Grove were surprised to see their street being blocked off at the junction with Stanley Grove. They had forgotten all about the notices warning of the closure which were posted in the street on 14th April 1976 !

The road was officially closed on 27th July 1976 but a Town Hall employee commented,"We leave the streets open for as long as possible for the convenience of residents."

The land is being reserved for the playground of St. Chrysostom's Primary School in the event of a proposed new road being built. This road would go from East Road to Pottery Lane, but will probably not be built for 10 to 15 years.

Meanwhile the plot of land is being landscaped. It has taken the contractors three months to get the hills in the right place, and over a month to construct a footpath to Stanley Grove. Until this is finished the residents will have to go a long way round to the shops on Stockport Road, or climb the mountains of bare earth.

Street Closures are done under the 'Local Act' powers. Notices must be posted in the street in question, and the City Council put notices in the Manchester Evening News about 3 months before finally getting a certificate of closure from the Crown Court. In the meanwhile, it is possible to complain via local councillors and councillors on the highways committee.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Hits Longsight

As national unemployment figures exceed the 2 million mark, we examine the situation in the local area.

'Local' in this case means the area covered by the new Jobcentre on Stanley Grove; that is, roughly, Longsight, Levenshulme, Rusholme and Burnage.

In June this year, the numbers of registered unemployed leaped from 2500 to around 3000 and has been increasing steadily since then to the figure of 3102 on 15 August.

This represents 2260 men, 842 women and 505 of these are under the age of 20. At a conservative estimate 8.6% of the total local population of working age, or 9.7% for young people. This means that about 1 person in every 12 is unemployed, and that nearly one young person out of ten is looking for a job. And Mr Bretherton, manager of Longsight Jobcentre, expects it to get worse in the next two months as the slump in manufacturing is followed by a slump in consumer product sales. People without jobs don't have money, so shops lose trade.

Currently there are only 20 - 25 local jobs vacancies per week notified to the Jobcentre - a drop of around 10 per week compared to last year. (Faireys, Bowaters and United Biscuits have all announced redundancies) Meanwhile, the new Jobcentre is understaffed. It was designed two years ago for 20 to 24 staff, but presently only employs 14 full time, and 1 part time worker.

If You Become Unemployed

1. Go to the new Job Centre on Stanley Grove near Asda. Go upstairs and register unemployed. You will get a small card.
2. Take the card to the Unemployment Benefit Office on Matthews Lane and join the "Fresh Claims" queue. Ask for a FORM B1 to take to the Social Security.
3. Make an appointment by phone with the Social Secutity. If you live in Victoria Park it will probably be the S.S. office on Wilmslow Road. Otherwise it will be the office on Clarence Road.
4. When you get to the S.S. office, wait for your name to be called out. Be early for your appointment - it may take a long time to make another if you miss it.

5. When you are being interviewed by the S.S. ask for a "FORM A124". You have a right to it. It tells you how they work your money out and it's easier to get advice about your payment if you have the form.

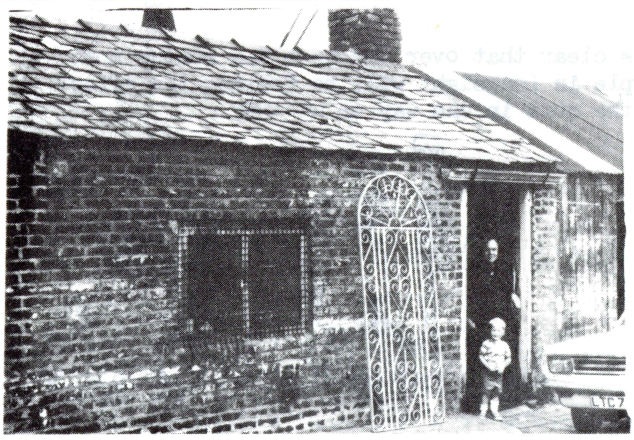
*** IF YOU NEED ADVICE ***

Welfare Rights Officer: Social Services office near the Longsight Library.

Citizens' Advice Bureau: Longsight Public Hall, near Stockport Road/Plymouth Grove.

Law Centre: 595, Stockport Road.
phone; 225 5111

If you get sacked for 'misbehaviour' or leave your job voluntarily, your Social Security will be reduced for the first six weeks of unemployment. If you are made 'redundant' you should get the full payment.



Smithy to go

The smithy on Jean St., off Matthews Lane in Levenshulme is to be demolished. The site has been occupied by a blacksmith's workshop since at least 1725, and the building has an unusual roof structure.

Bill Fletcher who has been the blacksmith "for a long time" says he cannot find alternative accommodation locally, and will probably have to close completely at the end of September when the property is demolished.

The site will eventually be used for housing.

G.M.T. - Stop The Rot!...

Even with the highest bus fares in the country Greater Manchester Transport is unable to maintain existing services. True the cuts to bus routes through Longsight are not as bad as once thought: the 189 is not to be cut entirely but there will be one less per hour. The same goes for the 94, and the 190 will be re-routed along Plymouth Grove.

Perhaps the most surprising route to be cut is the 192. This route, which follows the old tram line, is known to be one of the best paying in Manchester. Yet GMT dictates that it should be cut by two buses every hour. It will also be put onto one-man operation.

Bus workers are negotiating to stop cuts in services and to push for better routes. In particular they would like to see routes now ending in Albert Square continue to the Arndale Centre and Victoria Station, making it easier for shoppers.

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Co-ordinating meeting to launch fightback for public transport.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 16th, 8.00pm, MILLSTONE HOTEL, THORNAS STREET, MANCHESTER.
Further details ring 225 5437.

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.....And The Other Cuts!

Manchester Council has made a £15 million cut on services in this financial year, with the threat of more to come next April. Despite the efforts of the so-called "rebel" councillors the cuts package was passed, along with rent increases for Manchester's 100,000 Council tenants.

It's too soon to judge the full effects of the cuts, but these are some of the ways in which Longsight will be feeling the pinch.

HOUSING:
Despite massive increases in council house rents the cuts to Direct Works will mean longer waits for repairs and "botch" jobs to save maoney.

In some of the areas of older housing, the council won't be able to buy pu sub-standard properties, and because Housing Associations are just running out of their money, houses will be left derelict and vandalised.

CLEANSING:
It's likely that there will be cuts in street cleaning and the cleaning and landscaping of crofts and open spaces. The past year has seen some improvement in Longsight following the use of "operation clean up" money from the Inner Cities Programme. If these sites aren't kept in order, they will soon become eyesores again.

EDUCATION:
School meals have gone up in price yet again, yet 186 school meals assistants city-wide are to loose their jobs.

Adult Education classes have been cut, and grants to families with children who stay on in the sixth form.

The rebuilding of St.John's School has already been put back by seversl years. What happens to it now?

Longsight Public Hall is at the moment being converted into a much-needed Youth Centre for the area. Yet the post of Youth Worker to co-ordinate the Centre's activities when it opens has been cut.

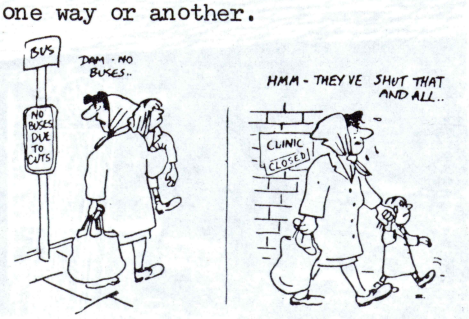
SOCIAL SERVICES:
Cuts in Social Services will affect those who are least able to fight back - the elderly, and the handicapped.

Meals on wheels and luncheon club prices are to go up, but quality of food is to be reduced. Home helps and other vital services will be cut because when people leave jobs, the jobs won't be filled.

Manchester has been proud of its home help and warden services, but at a time when many people have been asking for an expansion of services we are to face cuts instead. Wardens are needed not just on estates, but in many areas of older housing where elderly people live on their own.

VOLUNTARY GROUPS:
Many groups like Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre face cuts of 15% off this years budget, and because they operate on budgets much smaller than similar council-run projects this means they will be particularly hard hit. There are fears that workers could be made redundant, and much needed facilities for the community cut back. Where they are still available, higher charges to the public may have to be passed on.

It's clear that over the next few months most people in Longsight will be feeling the effect of the cuts in one way or another.



BUSES: THESE COMMENTS WERE WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE READING CLUBS AT LONGSIGHT LIBRARY AFTER READING AND TALKING ABOUT THE ARTICLE ON BUSES IN THE LAST LONGSIGHT NEWS.

I think the bus fares are much too high and if they keep increasing, less people will use them and they will start making the bus drivers redundant and they won't need as many buses. I don't think the service is as good as it should be, I think as the fares keep going up, they are taking longer to come. I think they could keep the buses cleaner and they could be more polite, I don't think there are enough bus shelters.

I think the 53bus service is not so bad because I have to get the 53 bus every day, it is sometimes late but not a lot. I think the increase in bus fares is a bit much. I have to pay 60p a day, that is £2.70p a week. £2.70p is too much to pay out every week. It would be better to have two men on one bus.

Cuts in libraries, although often less publicised, affect the lives of many people. Longsight Library draws about 1,300 people a day and lends half a million books, records and cassettes a year. The cuts have forced libraries in some areas to close and in others to reduce their services or opening hours.

While Longsight has been one of the least affected areas, it is likely that opening times will be reduced in the near future. Restrictions on overtime for the staff will make it impossible for the library to continue the scale of its support for local groups. The information section has given up most of its newspapers and magazines, including many for Asian readers. Only the Guardian and Evening News are left. Next year the situation will worsen.

Longsight News is prepared to give publicity to any information you may have about how the cuts affect this area, or to any plans which may exist for setting up a local anti-cuts committee. If you have such plans, you could contact the Manchester Anti-Cuts Committee or, through it, the local group which has already been set up in Gorton. Anyway, why not write to Longsight News about the way the cuts affect you ?

MANCHESTER ANTI-CUTS COMMITTEE is hoping to organise an "event" against the cuts on November 5th. They hope to organise a torchlight procession ,with floats,lorries etc for the kids. It is intended that this anti-cuts demonstration will get to the Town Hall before the end of the Council meeting.

MANCHESTER ANTI-CUTS COMMITTEE
c/o Manchester Area Resource Centre,
61 Bloom St, Manchester 1.

READING WRITING AND SPELLING

JOIN A READING CLUB

* If you need help with reading, writing or spelling, come to Longsight Library on:-

MONDAY	mornings	10.30am - 12.30pm
TUESDAY	evenings	7.00pm - 9.00pm
THURSDAY	evenings	7.00pm - 9.00pm

* Anyone over 16 can come and it is very interesting for young people and middle aged to come and learn.

* Paper and pens are provided.

* It is free to come to the club.

* Anyone is welcome to drop in at the times of the meetings.

* For information phone Jill Osman or John Sanders on 834 9163 or ask at Longsight Library.

* We enjoy what we're doing!

* Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer tutor should first contact Jill or John. We always need more help.

Steve Willett

"Don't pull the plug on Gorton Baths!"

PAID ADVERT

MAKE IT A DATE:

PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL
Sun Nov 30th, All Day, Belle Vue.

INCLUDING: MICK McGAHEY
7:84 THEATRE GROUP
BRASS BANDS / IRISH/ INDIAN MUSIC

FILMS: SOLARIS AND BUGSY MALONE
AND FESTIVAL OF NORTH WEST FILMS

DISCUSSIONS * STALLS * FOOD * DRINK

FOR DETAILS: 28 HATHERSAGE ROAD, LONGSIGHT
OR Tel. 224 5378

ORGANISED BY GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNIST PARTY

KING HENRY'S-4month

Steve Willatt

Strikers at King Henry's Meat Products, Stanbrooke St, Levenshulme have been on the picket line for nearly three months in their struggle for trade union recognition. The strike erupted over the dismissal of 16 workers on Monday 7th July but trouble has been smouldering at the factory for many years, and the government's arbitration service, ACAS, recommended union recognition in 1977 - which the management refused to implement. The strikers have had much support in the form of blacking and mass pickets and are confident that they have got the management on the run and that they will soon win their demands of (1) union recognition (2) full reinstatement and (3) no victimisation.

Management & Unions

The King Henry's company was set up in 1976 by Vincent Slater (99% ownership and also chairman of Norwest Holst) and Derek Hollins (1% and managing director of KH). Although the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union have been recruiting members since the factory opened, management have consistently got in the way of recognition, refusing to let union officials on the premises and sacking union members. By 1977 half the workers were in the union - but Hollins insisted on a "secret" ballot in which the workers complained that numbers on the ballot papers were recorded against their names.

Hollins also wanted the union to agree not to recruit members for twelve months if they lost the ballot. The union could not accept this, so went to the government's arbitration service, ACAS, which recommended union recognition. Three years later Hollins still has not allowed this and prefers the committee of workers he has appointed to "represent" the workforce.

Health, Safety and Pay

The management of King Henry's blatantly disregard the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Factories Act and the Equal Pay Act. We give just some of the complaints we have heard from workers at the factory:-

* One woman who'd been at the factory just two weeks and had been given no training lost two fingers when her hand was caught in a machine. Her hand was wrapped in an overall while she had to wait for an ambulance and she ended up with gangrene.
* Flour used to sprinkle on pastry as it goes through a rolling machine, much of which ends up on the floor, is swept up for re-use four times a day!
* Basic pay for women is £40 pw plus £10 attenda attenance and £10 good time keeping allowances.
* For the same work, 16 year olds get £26 pw plus £6 attendance and £6.50 timekeeping allowances
* Rumours indicate that management are going to be prosecuted for employing two kids, aged 13 and 15, on a Sunday shift at £6 a day.
* Men get 50% more than women - even though some of their jobs are identical.
* The attendance and timekeeping allowances mean that workers can lose 34% of a weeks pay for one day's absence even when authorised.

Strike Starts

On Friday 4th July one worker was told to leave the union or he'd be sacked. He left the union. Two union members were called to the office and given a weeks notice. The branch chairperson tried to discuss this with Hollins who refused to see him. Hollins then called 45 workers to a meeting in the canteen and announced changes to work schedules and partnerships prior to replacing several workers. The 16 workers left on the shop floor realised that they were going to be sacked.

The union called a meeting outside the factory during the second lunch break. Hollins came out and, despite the fact that production was going ahead normally, threatened that all those who didn't return immediately would be sacked. The 34 members at the meeting decided that 16 arbitary dismissals, including nearly all the most active union members, was too much to put up with and voted unanimously to strike. Hollins sent notices of dismissal by hand to each of the strikers on Monday and Tuesday.

The strikers decided to mount a 24-hour picket from the second night and spent two or three weeks trying to persuade the other workers to join the strike.

Importance of King Henry's

The Longsight area is full of small non-union factories producing food and clothing, where workers are easily intimidated by their boss: wages are low, especially for women, shifts are long, and often under-age children and people on the dole are employed. Health and safety at work are ignored by employers who know the Factory Inspectors won't bother them.

Setting up a union at your workplace may seem like an impossible task. The workers at King Henry's have shown that they can tackle bad employers by fighting for a union. In Salford women at Kleins' clothing factory won a similar strike earlier this year.

Longsight News want stories from the inside about wages and conditions in small factories in this area. Contact us c/o 642 Stockport Rd Longsight with your confidential information.

Strike for a Union

Blacking

The strikers have persuaded many other workers to black King Henry's - both stooping supplies to the factory and stopping firms buying pies etc from the firm including:-

* Liquid nitrogen - so it takes three hours instead of three minutes to freeze the pies.
* Flour from RHM - but Hollins is now buying RHM flour from other non-union firms.
* Texturised soya and other meat products from British Arcady.
* Shell agreed not to deliver oil - though a non-union firm has done so.

* Lucky Seven Bingo, Whitbread pubs, UMIST Students Union and Lyngray's Bakeries all stopped taking KH pies.
* Liverpool dockers have stopped pies going to the Isle of Man - they even found some under boxes of cauliflowers in an unmarked lorry!

Picketing

The strikers have been mounting a 24-hour picket since the strike began. Since July 17th there have been twenty mass pickets to which they ask trade unionists and their other supporters to come. These have grown from about 50 peop people at the beginning to crowds of 240 on September 19th. Support for the mass pickets have included delegations from many other bakeri bakeries, Fairey Engineering, Birchfields Bus Depot, NUPE at the M.R.I., Manchester NALGO, Stockport Trades Council and Ardwick and Stockport North Labour Parties.

Violence first erupted on the picket line on 5th August, by which time nearly all the workers were being ferried in by car or van. Managing director Hollins drove straight at one of the women strikers, throwing her onto the bonnet of the car and carrying her into the factory yard, trying to throw her off by violently swerving.

On 29th August 160 strike supporters formed the mass picket. The police kept on pushing the pickets back onto the pavement as cars and vans went in and out. When one car accelerated towards the picket line about 50 of the pickets surged out into the road. The car hit three of them. Police then arrested two pickets, one of whom the crowd tried to stop them arresting, resulting in a long scuffle. A total of four women strikers and seven supporters were arrested that morning, because they tried to defend each other or complained about the previous arrests. The police included about two dozen of the Tactical Aid Group (Manchester's SPG).

Attacks on Strikers

* One striker was beaten up after taking a strike fund collection in a local pub. His attackers included two people still working at KH.
* One of the people still working admitted trying to kick one of the strikers. Hollins threatened to privately prosecute the striker for defe nding herself.
* At 2am one morning a lorry driver hit one of the pickets over the head with an iron bar.
* A striker has had his home's windows broken.

Hollins' Offers

Hollins has twice made offers to the strikers. Before the 29th August national mass picket he offered four of the strikers their jobs back if the blacking and picketing were stopped. On the 12th September, to try to stop the 19th September mass picket, Hollins went further and offered (1) full recognition after 12 months if 40% vote for it (2) collection of union dues on a 44% vote (3) formal recognition in the meantime (4) reinstatement of those who've worked for more than 6 months (5) pay-offs of £50 - £350 to ten of the rest.

Strike Goes On

The strikers met on 16th September and rejected Hollins' offer because they wanted <u>full reinstatement</u> of all strikers and a promise of no later victimisation of the strikers.

The union is now negotiating with management, but the strikers are determined to carry on until they get a satisfactory offer, continuing with the pickets (mass pickets every Tuesday and Friday) and supporting the pickets arrested in court.

The pressure is now on the King Henry's management. It is approaching the busy time of the year, Hollins gets many orders now for Christmas. Blacking and picketing are making production difficult. Hollins will also be fearing permanent loss of some orders, especially the one to UMIST Students Union, if the strike is not settled soon.

The strikers mood is good and, impressed by the shows of solidarity at the mass pickets, are confident of quickly getting their full demands:-

(1) Full union recognition
(2) Reinstatement of all strikers
(3) No victimisation of strikers

Late News from King Henry's in the pull-out

WHAT ARE HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS DOING IN LONGSIGHT?

North British improving Greville St.

NORTH BRITISH SPEAKS

Over the last year or two North British Housing Association ahas bought up over 100 houses in the area between Birch Lane and Scarsdale Road. Most of this area has recently been declared a Housing Action Area by the Council. The Housing department and North British work side by side in modernising the houses.The Council gives improvement grants to owner occupiers. North British buys from owners or landlords,gets a grant from the Housing Corporation to improve the houses, and lets them,usually to the same residents.

In the last issue we looked at the Housing department's work in Housing Action Areas. With cuts in their budget they can't afford to buy out landlords who refuse to improve houses. Newly declared Action Areas like Kedleston have far fewer Council-bought houses compared to the older Action Areas like Slade Lane. But Housing Associations have been encouraged to step in to relieve the Council of this duty.

North British describe themselves as being "a major force for the good in the broad field of housing." They provide "the greatest degree of personal service,economy and efficiency."

Longsight News talked to Frank Cooper of North British to find out what these claims mean.

NORTH BRITISH IN HOUSING ACTION AREAS

Mr Cooper talked about the association's activity in Victoria Park.
"I think the Kedleston Action Area is a hard nut to crack with particular social problems". He explained how large houses like those in Curzon or Argyle Avenue can only be improved if they are turned into flats. "We get the same amount of money to do up a house for every unit of over four people". He said there was a need for flats in this area. It seems that the 'needs' of the area are remarkably similar to the cost limits imposed by the Housing Corporation and the Deparment of the Environment.

BECOMING A NORTH BRITISH TENANT

We asked Mr Cooper what happened to the tenants once they had sold to North British. "If they don't want the house improving we do the immediate repairs", he said, "then we try to programme them for improvement .. The architect visits the tenants. We present them with the plans and take in to account what they want. We offer them a choice of wallpapers and they can pick the colours of the kitchen units". Tenants are decanted into nearby North British property while the improvement is being carried out.

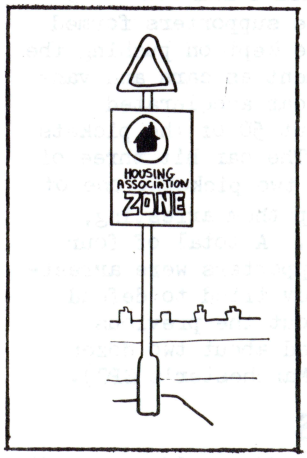
TENANTS' RIGHTS

Like Council tenants, Housing Association tenants have no security of tenure in law. Mr Cooper seemed to be unwilling to talk about tenants' rights, "That's a housing management matter," he said. But North British do encourage tenants associations, according to their report. Mr Cooper didn't seem to have read this. "Why would they want to act as a tenants' association?" he asked. We wanted to know if North British would supply tenants who wanted to start a group with lists of addresses of other tenants. At first Mr Cooper said "everyone knows who the other tenants are". We pointed out that housing association tenants were isolated, unlike Council tenants who all live together on an estate. Finally Mr Cooper said "We'd be only too happy to tell them who the other tenants are. After all, we're a social service, not some secret organisation."

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Can tenants get on the board of management?

"It's a real spread of people" said Mr Cooper, "but they're not elected. They are mostly people connected with local government or specialists in housing. We've got a housewife." After the interview, Longsight News found out more about the 'housewife'. She is married to the retired director of the massive firm Reckitt and Coleman (profit 1979 £60 million)

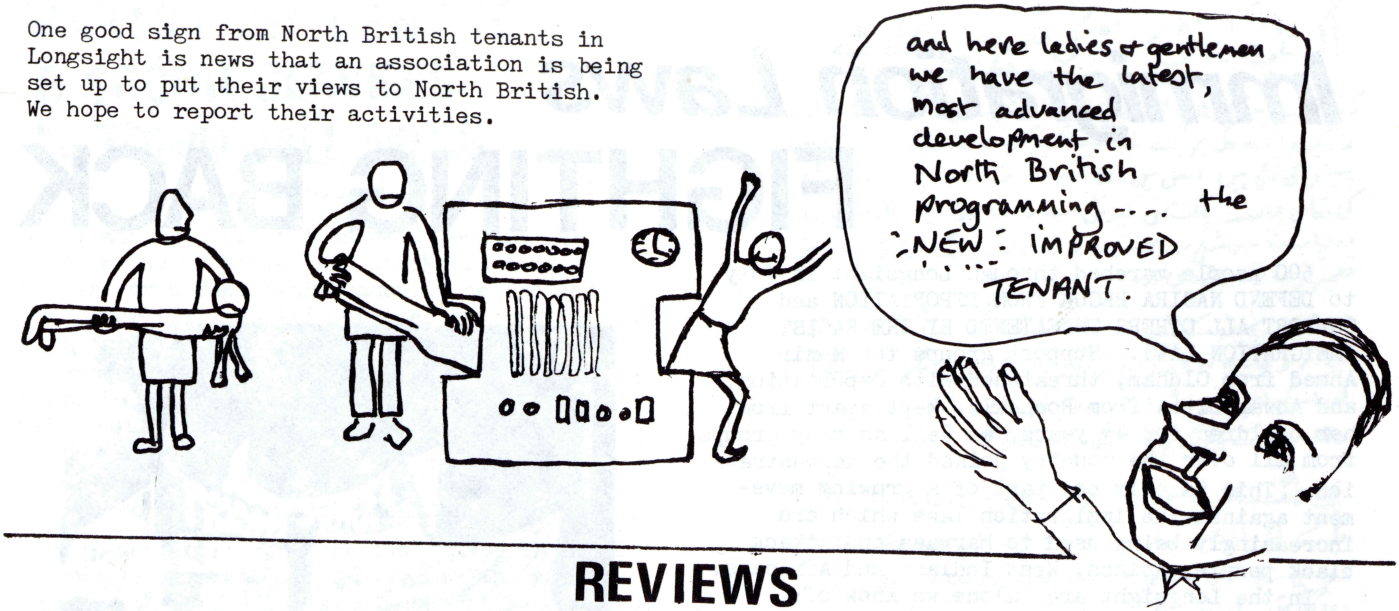


ARE HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS A GOOD THING?

It's clear that North British are here to stay in Longsight. But now Housing Association budgets are being cut too. Soon there may be no public (or not so public) body left to improve houses like the large ones in Victoria Park. Will they be left to rot?

The improvement North British has done so far has been efficient, as they claim. But they gave us the impression that they didn't want tenants interfering in their efficient modernisation programme. Although Council tenants might not get a better deal, it is easier for them to organise to fight rent increases, or common problems like high heating costs. Housing Associations are supposed to be under public control, through the Housing Corporation. But only MPs can control that.

One good sign from North British tenants in Longsight is news that an association is being set up to put their views to North British. We hope to report their activities.


and here ladies & gentlemen we have the latest, most advanced development in North British programming .... the NEW IMPROVED TENANT.

REVIEWS

NEW INFORMATION AT THE LIBRARY

Here are reviews of some more books which have just arrived at the information centre in the library. This time, for a more authentic opinion, the reviews are written by people who have experience of the problems involved. You can see these books and get much more information at the library.

PART TIME WORKERS NEED FULL-TIME RIGHTS

Ann Smedley

Today one in five workers is part time, working less than 30 hours a week. Most of these part-time workers are women.

This booklet looks at the reasons why women take part-time work; often it is the only way to bring in essential earnings while looking after children. The booklet suggests ways that unions can negotiate better rights for part-time members, about maternity leave or redundancy pay for instance.

It also asks why employers like part-time workers. They often work unsocial hours for less pay and can be laid off easily. If wages are below £19.50 a week the employer doesn't have to contribute to national insurance.

In April 1979 average earnings for full-time male workers were £2.32 an hour. For full-time women workers it was £1.65, and for part-time women workers only £1.34 an hour. This shows how little effect the Equal Opportunities and Sex Discrimination Acts have had. These laws don't help part-time workers. The booklet quotes cases where the act has not applied to them, especially where there are no men doing a similar job to use as a comparison or where there are no full-timers.

This is a useful booklet for checking up on your rights - how long you must have worked part-time to get maternity leave for instance, or what chance you have of getting a pension. It also has lots of suggestions that unions could take up. But not many unions will stand up for part-time workers unless they're pushed.

BATTERED WOMEN AND THE NEW LAW

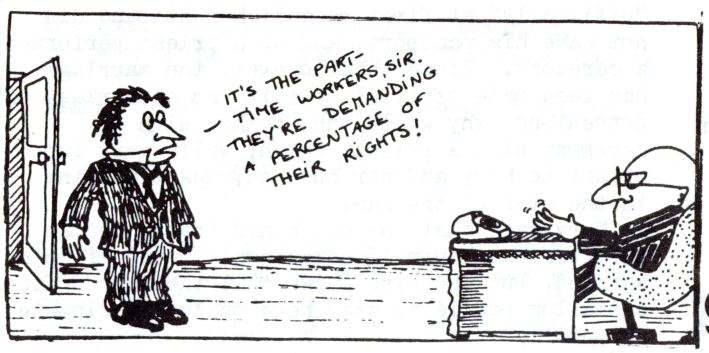
- by Anna Coote and Tess Gill

Avery helpful and informative booklet. Written in plain English and easy to understand. It is useful for women who want to try do-it-yourself divorce, with some good examples of how to fill out the necessary forms.

INCOME TAX AND SEX DISCRIMINATION

- by Patricia Hewitt

This booklet is a must for people who have never dared to query their tax in case they end up paying more, not less. Tax codes and allowances are very clearly explained with plenty of practical examples, and the cartoonsare good. It was announced recently that the government is to look into unfair treatment of women under the existing tax laws, but any reform is likely to take a long time. Meanwhile the situation still exists where it is possible for a married man to get a tax allowance after he has stopped supporting his wife, and for the tax relief on a mortgage to go to the man, even if the house is in his wife's name. The message seems to be: talk more to your tax man. It may well be to your advantage, but check it out first in this very useful book.



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Immigration Laws
FIGHTING BACK

500 people marched through Longsight in July to DEFEND NASIRA BEGUM FROM DEPORTATION and SUPPORT ALL OTHERS THREATENED BY THE RACIST IMMIGRATION LAWS. Support groups for Munir Ahmed from Oldham, threatened with deportation, and Anwar Ditta from Rochdale, kept apart from her children for 4½ years, as well as many groups from all over the country joined the demonstration. This is only one part of a growing movement against the immigration laws which are increasingly being used to harrass and attack black people; Asians, West Indians and Africans.

In the Longsight area alone we know of:

* Men who are married with children being deported.
* Relatives being refused entry.
* Black people refused DHSS and other rights.

At the same time black people face discrimination especially in employment and violent attacks by racist gangs.

Nasira Begum

A week after the demonstration in her support, Nasira Begum's appeal was heard in Manchester. Nasira's witnesses showed up the Home Office's 'reasons' for deporting Nasira as nothing more than lies and racist suppositions. The adjudicator agreed with Nasira's defence evidence and rejected the Home Office's. He announced on July 31st that he had found that Nasira has got a right to stay here. Yet one week later the Home Office appealed against that decision, made by someone they appointed. THEY STILL WANT TO KICK NASIRA OUT!

At the best, Nasira will have to suffer several more months of uncertainty, worry and threats from the Home Office. At the worst, Nasira will be forcibly deported next year

Nasira, and the defence campaign supporting her, intend to carry on fighting the Home Office Office's attacks on her.

On the Saturday before Nasira's appeal, the date of which hasn't been announced yet, her defence campaign will be holding a TORCHLIGHT DEMONSTRATION in MANCHESTER. A PICKET of the APPEAL in LONDON is also planned.

Contact: Friends of Nasira Begum
%595 Stockport Rd,
LONGSIGHT.

Daniel Ricketts

Daniel came to Longsight from Jamaica four years ago to join his mother, brother and 4 sisters. Right from the start he has been harrassed by the Home Office - they didn't even want to let him in for a visit! While waiting for an appeal against a refusal to let him stay longer, which took 14 months, Daniel met and later married a British citizen, and they soon had a child. The marriage broke down, over a year later, and the Home Office said Daniel had to leave the country. The immigration rules say that a marriage only has to last 12 months to give the husband the right to stay permanently. Daniel has now been told that the Home Office has decided to deport him - even though his is now living with another British woman who is expecting his child in November. Daniel will be fighting that decision through the appeals courts and hopes to get widespread support and publicity for his fight against this racist attack.

MARRIED WITH A KID BUT -
STILL TO BE DEPORTED.

Mary* is a woman from Longsight who is married to a Bengali man; they have a young baby. Seven weeks ago he was picked up at work by immigration officers and held for nine hours. He has been in this country for three years and now faces the threat of deportation. When he was first held, he was told he might be deported because he came into the country by deserting his ship. Now immigration officials are "investigating" the marriage to see if it is a "marriage of convenience."

Mary says they could not get married "officially" at first because her husband did not have his passport, and so a priest performed a ceremony. Since then however, the marriage has been made official. If it was a marriage of convenience why would they bother with a ceremony with a priest, which, while very important to Mary and her husband, meant nothing in the eyes of the law.

Mary says that she has heard that a seaman deserter can never 'become legal', even if he's married, but she also knows that the Home Office can allow people to stay here on 'compassionate grounds'.

PAKISTANI CENTRE & SOCIAL SERVICES IN TOWN HALL MESS

****

Two planning applications have gone in for a site on Cayton Street and Stockport Road. One is for a Pakistani Community centre and the other for a Social Services day centre club for old people.

A spokesperson for the Social Services at first assured Longsight News that the day club was being built from next March, with money from the inner-city budget. She said the new club would serve 150 meals a day. The nearest club at the moment is on Kirkmanshulme Lan

But as we reported in the last issue there is already a planning application on the same site for a much-needed Pakistani community centre. This application was made in July, and the planning department itself suggested the Cayton Street site!

After being told of this the Social Services said in embarrassment that the day club was planned, but not yet approved. The decision over which application will be succesful will be delayed.

As there is plenty of Council-owned open land on the right-hand side of Stockport Road, it seems foolish to fight over a site for the day club. Both the community centre and the day club are important for Longsight people.

Since this article was written we have heard from a reliable source that the Pakistani Community Centre have been offered another site next to Longsight Library on Stockport Rd.

We have translated this article into Urdhu →

پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر کی تعمیر میں رکاوٹ

کیٹن اسٹریٹ (Cayton Street) اور اسٹاک پورٹ روڈ کے نزدیک ایک جگہ پر ایک بلڈنگ تعمیر کرنے کے لئے دو درخواستیں پیش کی گئی ہیں۔ اس میں سے ایک درخواست لانگ سائیٹ کی مقامی جماعت پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر نے دی ہے جبکہ دوسری درخواست سوشل سروسز نے بوڑھے لوگوں کے لئے ڈے سینٹر تعمیر کرنے کے لئے دی ہے۔

سوشل سروسز کے ایک نمائندے نے لانگ سائیٹ نیوز کے رپورٹر کو بتایا کہ یہ ڈے سینٹر اگلے سال مارچ میں مکمل ہو جائے گا اور اسکی تعمیر انر سٹی بجٹ سے ہوگی۔ اس ڈے سینٹر میں 150 افراد کے لئے کھانا کا انتظام کیا جائے گا۔

پچھلے لانگ سائیٹ نیوز کے شمارے میں ہم نے بتایا تھا اس جگہ کے لئے پاکستانی کمیونٹی نے ایک سینٹر بنانے کے لئے درخواست دی تھی۔ یہ درخواست عمارت کے پلان کے ساتھ جولائی میں دی گئی تھی۔ اور خود پلاننگ ڈپارٹمنٹ نے یہ جگہ پاکستانی سینٹر کی تعمیر کے لئے تجویز کی تھی۔ واضح رہے کہ مانچسٹر میں پاکستانیوں کے لئے کوئی سینٹر نہیں ہے۔ لانگ سائیٹ جس میں پاکستانیوں کی بیشتر تعداد رہتی ہے ابھی تک ایک سینٹر سے محروم ہے۔ مقامی پاکستانی کئی سالوں سے اس سینٹر کو تعمیر کرانے کی جدوجہد میں مصروف ہیں۔

پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر کے پرزور احتجاج پر سوشل سروسز دونوں درخواستوں پر نظر ثانی کر رہی ہے اور کچھ عرصے کے بعد اسی فیصلے پر پہنچی گی کہ کون سی درخواست کو منظور کیا جائے

لانگ سائیٹ کے عوام کے لئے ڈے سینٹر اور پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر دونوں ہی ضروری ہیں مگر سوشل سروسز ڈے سینٹر کی تعمیر کے لئے باآسانی دوسری جگہ حاصل کر سکتی ہے۔ لانگ سائیٹ کے بیشتر پاکستانی Cayton Street پر پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر تعمیر کرنے کے حق میں ہیں۔ لانگ سائیٹ نیوز کو امید ہے کہ سوشل سروسز پاکستانی کمیونٹی کے خواہشات کا احترام کرے گی۔

پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر سے مندرجہ ذیل پتہ پر رابطہ کیا جا سکتا ہے:-

Pakistani Community Centre
c/o Longsight Library,
Stockport Road, Longsight,

نوٹ: لانگ سائیٹ نیوز کے رپورٹر کو ابھی بارسوخ ذریعے سے معلوم ہوا کہ کونسل پاکستانی کمیونٹی سینٹر کے لئے لانگ سائیٹ نیوز سے ملحق جگہ دینے پر تیار ہے!

RECIPE

The recipe for this issue comes from the cuisine of Longsight's smallest minority group- the Australians. Australian cooking tends to be a hybrid creature combining the best and worst of the British Isles with the more recent influences of the Italian, Greek and Lebanese immigrants.

The quantities are for a 9inch spring base tin with about 1½" thickness of cheese mixture.

SHELL: Crumb base spread 2 inches up the side of the tin.
12oz. Digestive biscuits
5 oz. Butter.

Place biscuits in plastic bag. Crush with a rolling pin. Combine with melted butter and a touch of cinnamon, press into tin, and refrigerate while making cheese mixture.

FILLING: 1 lb Philadelphia cream cheese
14 oz. can of sweetened condensed milk
Juice of 3 lemons
3 teaspoons gelatine dissolved in a little water.

Blend, beat or seive cheese until smooth. Add condensed milk and lemonjuice and beat well. Add gelatine. Pour into shell and chill. Decorate with cream, strawberries, apricots, chinese gooseberries, etc.

Tenants left in the dark

Five tenants living in rooms at 13 Ash Grove have been without gas or electricity for seven weeks. Their landlord was discovered by the CID to be getting free electricity and gas by illegal connections. He was charging the tenants for heating and lighting he wasn't paying for. And now that the electricity and gas are cut off, the tenants are <u>still</u> paying him £8 a week each!

The tenants talked about the hopelessness you feel living in houses like these. "I've been living in rooms like this since I left home at 15. I'd like a flat, a bathroom of my own. I'm sick of these houses." They didn't hold out much hope for getting rehoused quickly.

The environmental health and housing departments are investigating. But meanwhile the tenants are sitting in cold, damp rooms, eating out at cafes, and going round to friends' houses to wash.

Discovering Longsight History

Photo: Brenfields School, Longsight in 1937, from the Local History collection at Longsight Library.

Do you remember going to performances at the old Kings Theatre that used to stand where Longsight Library is now? Do you know where the bombs hit Longsight during the last war? Did you know that once there was a farm called Pink Bank Farm where Pink Bank Lane now runs; that Edwin Chadwick, the famous campaigner for improved public health was born in Longsight?

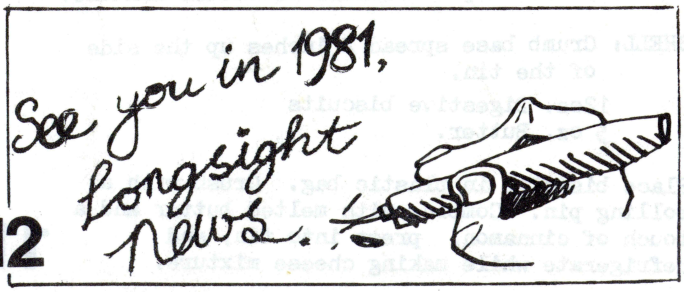
Longsight Library's local history collection of books, photographs, newspaper cuttings and souveniers of various sorts has proved very popular with local people, and they are keen to expand it further. Have a look in your attics, trunks and cupboards for photographs and other mementoes; the Library can make copies and return the originals to you. Such records are invaluable in discovering how people in Longsight lived in the past years and form a fascinating picture for young and old alike.

Gay Sussex hopes to write a pamphlet on Longsight history and would like to hear from anyone who feels they might have something to contribute - either from their own experieces or stories they've heard from parents or grandparents..You may remember changes in housing, evacuation during the war, your early school days or your mother battling with the washing. Anything - whether it concerns health, education, games played, weddings celebrated, the war won..... Information can be written down, tape recordings made, pamphlets and photographs copied.

While looking at Longsight history it should'nt be forgotten that in the present is the future's past (work that one out) and the library's local history collection always has a place for information on things happening now - festivals church fetes, school functions, the opening of a new community centre.

So any posters, pamphlets and photographs of things happening now are very welcome.

Please call in and see Gay Sussex at the library, or telephone 224 1411



Longsight News

No.1 HOUSING

WHERE TO GO

ADVICE GUIDE

This is the first of a series of guides on where to go for help with problems. We start with housing. If you are not sure where to go or who to ask to see ask at the Information Centre in the Library.

HOUSING ACTION AREAS

There are nine Housing Action Areas in this part of Manchester. If you live in one of these you can apply for grants to modernise your home. The normal grant is 75% of the cost but this can go up to 90%. The place to go is one of the Environmental Housing Improvement Offices. There are two of these.

For Bowler St, Maida St, Purcell St and Tallis St Housing Action Areas it is at 49 East Rd, tel 225 5433. The person in charge is Area Surveyor Kevin Groves.

For Eston St, Wiley St, Slade Lane/Slade Gr, The Groves and Kedlestone Ave Housing Action Areas it is at 21 Hector Rd tel 225 3040. Area Surveyor David Radcliffe.

Both offices are open Mon-Fri 8.45-4.30 (closed 12.30-1.15). There is one Area Coordinator for both offices: Mike Illidge, based at East Rd.

HOUSING AID

There is one Housing Aid Officer for Longsight. She will help with problems between tenants and private landlords. For example rent, repairs, harrassment, notice to quit or security of tenure. When personal problems affect housing she may also be able to help. For example financial problems, mortgage problems, marriage breakdown. She may also have advice for local tenants or residents groups or people wanting to form a group.

The Housing Aid Officer is Bonnie Carroll at 21 Hector Rd tel 225 3040. You can see her every Weds 9.00am-12.30pm or at other times by arrangement. She may also be able to visit you.

TENANCY RELATIONS

Criminal charges may be made against private landlords for breaking the law. This may be for charging tenants illegal premiums, failing to give you a rent book for illegal eviction or harrassment. Charges can also be brought against flat agencies who make illegal charges. For help with such cases contact the Tenancy Relations Officer Room 305 in the Town Hall - open 9.00-4.30. Their names are Mr A Moran 236 3377 ext 542 and Mr D Blunt 236 3377 ext 484.

FIXED TERM AGREEMENTS

This is where the arrangement is for you to stay only for a limited period of time. If your landlord offers you a fixed term agreement, whether you are an existing tenant or intending to take up a new tenancy contract, the Law Centre(see below) or the Housing Aid Officer can advise you. The law on this king of agreement is changing at the moment. It's best to be sure of your rights.

RENT

You can have your rent assessed according to the area, the amenities in the property, the amount and quality of furniture etc. Where your landlord is not resident with you it is called a fair rent . You can check this with the Rent Officer, second floor, 20, Princess St. Tel.236 7244

Where you live in the same property as the landlord it is called a reasonable rent. In this case contact the Rent Tribunal 6th floor, Michael House, Longridge Place (near Marks and Spencer) Tel. 832 9661

* In either case it is important to know exactly the nature of your tenure. Check this by asking the law Centre or the Housing Aid Officer.

REBATES AND ALLOWANCES

Council and private tenants can get allowances towards their rents and rebates on their rates. Owner occupiers can also get rate rebates. This depends on your circumstances, income etc.
Everybody should check to see if they are entitled to these. Most of the agencies mentioned here can help you, or go direct to the rebates section in the Town Hall Extension, entrance in St. Peter's Square. It's just inside the door. If you phone ring 236 3377. Private tenants and owner occupiers ask for extension 2678 or 2659; council tenants for extension 2434 or 2435.

COUNCIL HOUSING

The local Estate Management Office deals with all aspects of council housing. Here you can pay your rent, check your account, put in orders for repairs, make a request for transfer or see about modernisation of older council property. People wishing to apply for council accomodation in this area or elsewhere in Manchester should ask here.

There are two local offices:
If you live on the Manchester side of the line made by Dickinson Rd./Stanley Grove, go to the Longsight Estate Management Office, Guide Post Square, off Devonshire St. South, Manchester 13. Tel: 273 2822 The area manager is Mr. Tyler.

If you live on the south side of Dickenson RD., go to the Burnage Estate Management Office, Apex House, 45 Kingsway, M 19. Tel. 225 9228 The area manager is Mr. Belshaw. Both offices are open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

COUNCILLORS

If you have any problems with council services, including housing, you can see your councillors. If you live in the Longsight ward they are Cllrs. Ward, Stevens and Wilson. They hold an advice bureau at the library on Wednesdays from 7.30pm and Saturdays from 11am. No appointments needed.

If you live in the Ardwick ward they are Cllrs. Finlay, Barrat and Dale. Advice bureau is at Nicholls Ardwick High School, Devonshire St. Mondays 6.45pm to 8.15pm. No appointments needed.

LAW CENTRE

The Law Centre can give you free legal advice, represent you and help you with civil court action on many problems to do with housing including tenants rights, for private and council tenants.
This would include disputes between landlord and tenant, harassment, eviction, security of tenure, repairs and damage.

The Law Centre is at 595, Stockport Rd., Tel. 225 5111. Open Mon. to Thurs. from 10am to 1pm. No appointment needed.
Also open Tues and Thurs. 7.15pm to 9pm. At this time an appointment isn't essential, but it's better to make one as it can be very busy.

NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE NEWS! LATE

LONGSIGHT LIBRARY INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The library has been closing in the evenings as part of a Manchester-wide NALGO action against loss of shift pay and disruption of work time for library staff. These hidden cuts to library staff affect the service the workers are able to provide to the public. A meeting in November will decide if the action is to become official. The library workers are fighting for reinstatement of those taken off shift work. East Manchester libraries, including Longsight, are reported to be solidly in favour of the action.

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RACIST ATTACK IN GORTON See page 2

One of the gang of racists who attacked the Geoffrey family in Gorton was fined £150 in the magistrates court on November 10th. He was found guilty of assaulting a friend of the Geoffrey family in AylesbyAve.

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KING HENRY'S BAKERY STRIKE See pages 6&7

The strike is still going on, but most of the pickets have been forced into a return to work. The boss, Hollins, was fined in October for not having safety guards on machines. The picket is still going and needs support.

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IMMIGRATION LAWS See page 10

Mary and her husband recently heard from the Home Office that he is allowed to stay in this country another year. Only about one in ten of these sort of applications are succesful.

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CUTS IN SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

On November 24th the new Supplementary Benefits scheme comes into force. It will make 1,805,000 people worse off, 19,000 by £3 a week.
It is also the day claimants get their annual increase. This year the increase co comes after 54 weeks - the Government have robbed claimants of 2 week's money at the increased rate.

This year 2 million people have their benefits cut in real terms. Benefits for the unemployed, the sick, the disabled and for pregnant women will go up by 11.5%, a cut according to the government's estimate of inflation. It's more like a cut of 7% The Child Benefit increase in fact represents a cut of 8.7% as its been frozen for so long.

Info & Events

IF YOU HAVE ANY EVENTS YOU WANT PUBLICITY FOR, DROP A NOTE OFF TO LONGSIGHT NEWS c/o 642 STOCKPORT RD.

FRIDAY NOV.14th Women and Health meeting 'Feeling Depressed' Levenshulme Health Centre. 1.30 - 3.30pm.Playgroup for kids.

WED. NOV.19th Workers Educational Association. Speaker David Boulton from Granada T.V. 'T.V. and the Real World.' The Friends Meeting House, Mount St. 7.30pm

THURS. NOV. 20th NUPE Public Meeting about the Immigration Laws.Town Hall Basement. 7.30pm.

SAT. NOV. 22nd Publick Spirit Theatre Company. Frankenstein, A Compleat fabrikation. Birch Community Centre. 8pm.Tickets £1 on the door.

MON. NOV. 24th Campaign against Social Security Cuts.Picket of Rusholme and Clarence Rd DHSS 11am - 3pm. About the Benefit Swindle. Contact Cath Loughney tel 795-4243(days).

WED. NOV. 26th W.E.A. Speaker Jane Barker on the New Technology. 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, Mount Street.

THURS, NOV. 27th Picket of Area Health Authority,Piccadilly Station Approach 10am. See Health Cuts insert.

SAT NOV. 29th National Demonstration against unemployment, Liverpool.For info about coaches, ring 226-3338.

SAT. NOV. 29th 8pm Frankie Armstrong Folk Singer in concert, Birch Community Centre. Tickets £1.

SUN. NOV. 30th Belle Vue Peoples' Festival. Stalls and entertainments all day. M'cr C.P.

SAT. NOV. 6th Social for Nasira Begum Films-Food-Reggae disco-Speakers. Birch Community Centre. 4.30pm - 11.30pm.Tickets £1 waged, 75p unwaged.

SUN DEC 14th Training workshop on fighting Immigration Laws.How to give advice, how to deal with the police and immigration officials and the Home Office. Place not yet fixed. Apply to Zulfi 224-7014.

HERE ARE CONTACT NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES FOR SOME LOCAL GROUPS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR GROUP ADVERTISED IN LONGSIGHT NEWS, SEND US A NOTE WITH THE DETAILS.

Longsight/Rusholme against the Missiles Meets fortnightly at Longsight Library. Ring Chris 224-1614

Friends of Nasira Begum meets every Tues. at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre.Contact Steve at 225-5111.

Photography Workshop at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre. Now has a darkroom. Ring Jill or Linda 225-3350.

Asian Youth Movement Contact them at 264 Humberside House, Coverdale Crescent, Ardwick, M'cr 12.

Longsight Women's Aid tel Ailsa 224-7322

Local History at Longsight Library. Every Tuesday at 7pm. WEA Course about Manchester History with special reference to Longsight.

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

These groups usually start with a few mothers getting together and raising funds to buy toys and to find a room to meet in. The groups are very informal and have the advantage of no age limits for children. Mothers with tiny babies can go and have a break from their homes. The babies get used to being with other children and the group can be an important first step for children before going to school. You don't have to be a 'mum' either; plenty of grannies mind small children, and anyone else minding small children is always very welcome.

Longsight Community Centre Mothers and Toddlers. Monday and Wednesday 10am -12am. Hayley St(corner of Stockport Rd and Plymouth Grove).Tel. Sue Hulsten 273-6862 for more information.

St John's Mothers and Toddlers meets on Tuesday afternoons 1.30-4pm.Entrance is the side door of the church on St John's Rd. Plenty of toys,anyone with small children welcome.

HOME TOO SOON?

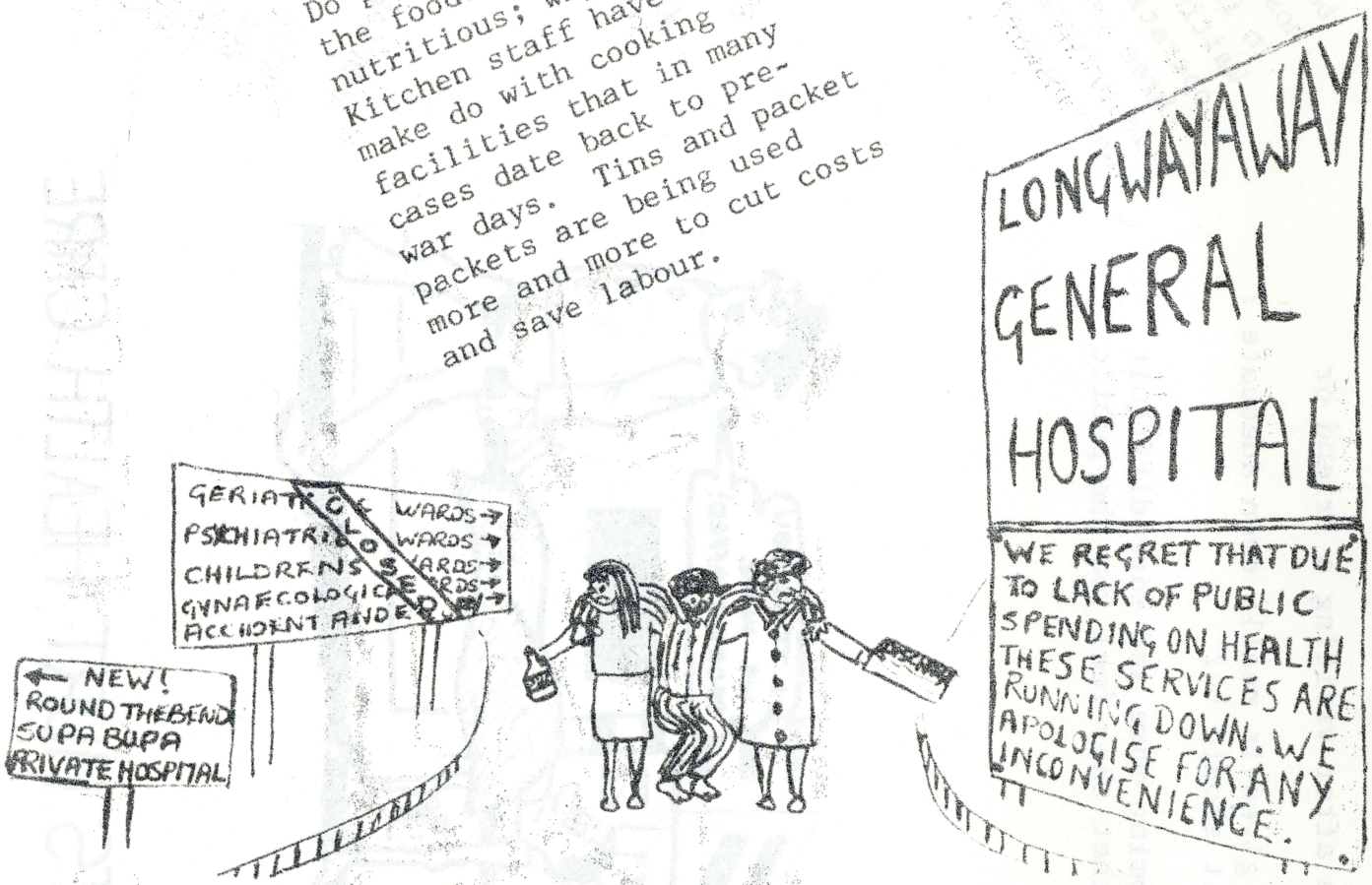
Are patients being sent home perhaps too early because there are queues for beds?

AND WHEN YOU GET HOME...

Will they be able to get a Home Help, a District Nurse, Meals on Wheels?

POOR FOOD.

Do patients moan about the food? It is rarely nutritious; why? Kitchen staff have to make do with cooking facilities that in many cases date back to pre-war days. Tins and packet packets are being used more and more to cut costs and save labour.



REMEMBER- CUTS IN THE HEALTH SERVICE ARE NOT ALWAYS OBVIOUS..... STAFF ARE NOT REPLACED. SUPPLIES ARE SHORT. AMBULANCE SERVICES ARE REDUCED.AND OLD BUILDINGS THAT ARE NOT MAINTAINED DETERIORATE. ALL THIS MEANS A GRADUAL RUNNING DOWN OF SERVICES.

HOSPITAL WORKERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT : WE CAN'T STRUGGLE ON OUR OWN. WE MUST FIGHT TO DEFEND AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH SERVICE.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Talk to hospital staff: Tell us what you think.
   Tell us if you support us.
2. Write a letter to your MP or go and see him/her.
3. Write to Patrick Jenkins, Minister of State for Health.
4. LOBBY the Northwest Regional Health Authority on the day of their finance meeting.
   They are responsible for allocating funds to the region.

JOIN US....
27th November at 10.00 am
Outside Gateway House (Piccadilly Station Approach.)

JOIN WITH US IN THE FIGHT FOR THE NHS WE NEED - DON'T SUFFER IT.

" I THINK THE STAFF OF THIS HOSPITAL ARE WONDERFUL AND DO A MARVELLOUS JOB."

Is this the kind of statement you make after visiting a friend or relative in thes hospital ?
But are you sure the service they are given is really even adequate ?
Do you have doubts that all isn't as it should be?

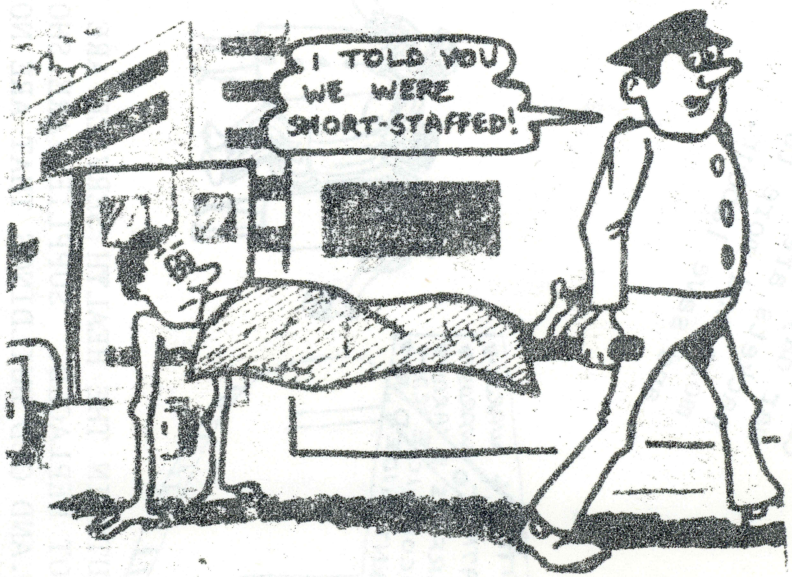
Perhaps you don't know, but it is becoming more and more difficult for NHS staff to provide the service that they feel you the public have a right to - decent health care.

WAITING LISTS

How long did your friend or relative have to wait before they came into hospital? Months? Years? In increasing ill health ? Waiting lists for some operations are up to three years and growing. Is private care to be the only answer?

STAFF SHORTAGES

Do they feel the nurses are"too busy" and they "mustn't bother them"? for bowls, bedpans, drinks, painkillers, etc.? Have the doctors ever had time to listen to problems and explain tests? Staffing levels are so low as to be almost unsafe and many wards are having to be closed on a rotating basis to keep nursing levels to minimum requirements. (All NHS staff want to do their job well but we can't when we are so overstretched.)



PRESCRIPTION CHARGES.

Can we possibly afford them?

AMBULANCE PROBLEMS.

Will they be able to get an ambulance to come back to see the doctor/ physiotherapist /occupational therapist/ geriatric Day Centre/ outpatients department?

CUTS HURT HEALTH CARE